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- RICA ERICKSON.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Occurrence of Black-tailed Godwit in Kalgoorlie.**—A party of five Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*) was observed on a dam in Kalgoorlie on December 21, 1952. They were identified by the white wing stripe and rump, and the long legs, trailed in flight. A loud squeak, like that of an immature White-headed Stilt, was emitted prior to flight. Unfortunately, at least three of the birds were destroyed and left floating in the dam. This enabled a photograph to be taken, and measurement of the tarsus, 67 mm. One bird remained on the dam and was still there when I left Kalgoorlie on February 5, 1953.

—P. SLATER, Coonana.

**Early Appearance of Jewel Beetle.**—The beautiful green jewel beetle, *Stigmodera gratiosa* Chevrol. (*W.A. Nat.*, vol. 3, 1952, p. 145, col. pl.), commonly found on flowers of *Hakea*, *Leptospermum*, etc., first appears in early September and early October. This year (1953) a specimen was collected alive and sent to the Museum at least over two months before it usually appears free.

Master Andrew Clarke found this jewel beetle on July 5 at Lesmurdie, and it arrived at the Museum in a very active condition next day. This is our earliest record of jewel beetles being found free in the South-west. Of course individuals may be cut out of their host trees and shrubs while they await satisfactory

conditions for emergence, but this was not the case with Andrew Clarke's capture.

—ATHOL DOUGLAS, W.A. Museum, Perth.

**Addenda to Published Notes on *Cyrtopeltis* spp.**—It is apparent from the descriptions by Dr. W. E. China (*W.A. Nat.*, vol. 4, no. 1) of the colouring of *Cyrtopeltis droserae* and *C. russelli* that some minor changes took place in the type specimens in transit. No expert description from living material has yet been made but green colours occur on most specimens and it appears certain that some of those parts described by Dr. China as yellow, dirty-yellow, greenish-yellow, etc., were originally shades of green. On recently collected specimens I have found a distinct fading and yellowing of areas which were bright green in life and this appears to be due to the preservative used. Dr. China has accordingly asked that it be made known that his observations were made on spirit preparations.

I should like to add to my own notes, which were appended to Dr. China's paper, a belated but none the less sincere acknowledgment of the assistance in plant identification given me by Mr. R. D. Royce, of the Government Botanist's staff.

—M. C. RUSSELL, Como.

**The Dollar Bird in Western Australia.**—Serventy and Whittell (*The Handbook of Birds of Western Australia*, 1951, p. 45) list the Dollar Bird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) among those species not found in Western Australia south of the Kimberley Division.

On June 14, 1953, I was returning from a trip to the North-west, accompanied by Messrs. K. G. Buller and N. E. Stewart. While we were driving slowly up the southern bank of the eucalypt-lined creek immediately south of Winning Pool, a strange bird flew at radiator height across the path of the truck and only about ten feet in front of it. The closeness of the bird made possible the following observations which in my opinion leave no doubt whatever that it was a Dollar Bird. (It should be mentioned that I have had considerable field experience of the Dollar Bird in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.)

The bird was of the size and had the characteristic flight of the Dollar Bird. It had a bluish-grey body, big dark-bluish wings with a single large white circular spot in the centre of each, and a short bright red bill.

Mr. Buller who has observed the Dollar Bird in the Kimberleys is also quite sure that the bird seen at Winning Pool was of this species.

It seems inconceivable that so distinctive a bird could have been overlooked by such resident and visiting ornithologists in the North-west as T. Carter, F. L. Whitlock, A. H. Robinson and I. C. Carnaby, and the obvious conclusion is that the presence of the bird at Winning Pool is a probable consequence of the unusual climatic conditions in the Kimberleys which produced the recent general irruption of birds.

—J. H. CALABY, Nedlands.